

2. Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 7. This sheet, which includes Figs. 5 and 7, is intended to replace sheet 4/7 as filed. The change to Fig. 7 includes the label "Prior Art."

3. REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 7 are in independent form.

Unless indicated otherwise, claims are amended for non-statutory reasons: to correct one or more informalities, remove figure label number(s), and/or to replace European-style claim phraseology with American-style claim language.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowability of the subject matter of claims 3-6. By inference, Applicants submit that the subject matter of new claims 9-12 is allowable.

II. Objections to the Drawings

The objection to Fig. 7 has been cured by the present amendment thereto. Applicants respectfully request that the enclosed replacement sheet be entered and the objection withdrawn.

Applicants have reviewed the objection to Fig. 2 and respectfully traverse the objection. As described in the filed application Fig. 2 depicts a detailed diagram of a transistor pair included in the differential inverter. The differential inverter 10 comprises a first transistor pair and a second transistor pair. Each of the transistor pairs comprises a n-type MOS transistor T2 coupled to a p-type MOS transistor T1 via a drain to drain connection. The n-type transistor T2 has a first control terminal G2 for receiving the second control signal DC2 via a third resistor means R1.

The Examiner asserts that this is only one-half of the claimed differential inverter. Applicants submit that Fig. 2 is a circuit diagram of a transistor pair included in the differential inverter 10. In an embodiment, there are two pair in the differential inverter circuit. The pair shown in Fig. 2 may be one of the two pair and are thus included in the circuit.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to Fig. 2 is earnestly solicited.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claim 1 has been amended to remedy the noted antecedent basis issue presented in the Office Action. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-6 is earnestly solicited.

IV. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of *Weekes, et al.* (U.S. Patent 3,582,802). For at least the reasons set forth herein, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

A proper rejection for anticipation "...requires, as the first step in the inquiry, that **all the elements** of the claimed invention be described in a single reference." *In re Spada* 15 USPQ2d 1655, 1657 (1990). A necessary corollary to the test of anticipation is that "...the absence from the reference of **any claimed element** negates anticipation." *Kloster-Speedsteel AB v. Crucible, Inc.* 230 USPQ 81, 86 (CAFC 1986).

a. Weekes, et al. does not disclose a differential inverter

Claim 1 is drawn to a differential inverter (100). The differential inverter comprises a controlled bias generator (10). Claim 7 also is drawn to a differential inverter.

The Office Action asserts that the reference to *Weekes, et al.* discloses a differential inverter in Fig. 2. To wit, the Office Action asserts that '49, and input transistors 44, 46 satisfy this feature. Applicants note that the reference discloses that transistors 44 and 46 have a current gain β_1 , but is silent on the type and function of these transistors. That said, it does not appear that the reference provides any description of '49,' not even an identifier in the specification. A review of Fig. 2 shows that '49' some type of op-amp, but leaves the reader to ponder its

function. Regardless, Applicant's respectfully submit that there is no disclosure in *Weekes, et al.* of a differential inverter. Instead, the import of the reference to *Weekes, et al.* is a differential amplifier with high common mode rejection and high common mode input impedance.

b. Weekes, et al. does not disclose a controlled bias generator

Claim 7 is drawn to a differential inverter including a *controlled bias generator operative to generate the second vector of input signals in response to a bias control signal*. Claim 1 includes a similar feature.

The Office Action asserts that the noted feature of *Weekes, et al.* is met by the amplifier 48 controlled by the voltage divided signal. The signal from terminal 16 is input to the amplifier, which in turn provides an output to tail resistors 38, 40. However, the amplifier 48 is not described as a controlled bias generator. It is merely an amplifier in the differential amplifier of *Weekes, et al.* Furthermore, the reference to *Weekes, et al.* fails to provide any description of the function of the amplifier 48 beyond its gain. Applicants respectfully submit the Office Action is making an impermissible leap from the deficient disclosure of *Weekes, et al.* to the claims under examination. As such a *prima facie* case of anticipation has not been made.

For at least the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that a *prima facie* case of anticipation has not been made. Thus, the rejection of claim 1 is improper and should be withdrawn. Allowance of claim 1 and the claims that depend therefrom is earnestly solicited. By similar reasoning, claim 7 and the claims that depend therefrom are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, applicant(s) respectfully request(s) that the Examiner withdraw the objection(s) and/or rejection(s) of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is

respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and further replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number 50-0238 for any additional fees, including, but not limited to, the fees under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. §1.17.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment: One (1) Replacement
Sheet of Drawings